



WP

23

Agenda Item:

5.1

Person Responsible:

A Terauds

EXCOM 2015

Tromsø, Norway 27-28 August 2015

Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System

Annual Report to SCAR ExCom

Executive Summary

Title: Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System- Annual Report to ExCom

Author: Aleks Terauds

Introduction/ Background: The Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SCATS) is the body tasked with developing SCAR's scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and its Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS), and the Advisory Committee to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

Important Issues or Factors:

SCAR President Jeronimo Lopez-Martinez and SCATS CO Aleks Terauds represented SCAR at the workshop *"Antarctica and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity: 2011-2020: The Monaco Assessment"*. The meeting was supported through funding from the Monaco Government, Monash University and SCAR (through the SCATS budget). More information can be found at <http://www.scar.org/monaco-assessment>.

SCATS continued to play a key role in the Antarctic Environments Portal, particularly through the editorial process, with the CO Aleks Terauds appointed to the Editorial Board.

SCATS members Jeronimo Lopez-Martinez, Aleks Terauds and Steven Chown, together with SCAR Lecturer Richard Bellerby represented SCAR at the ATCM XXXVIII - CEP XVIII in Sofia Bulgaria. SCAR was an active participant in the meeting and came away with a number of agreements and commitments (See also [WPxx](#) for a full report of the meeting)

Informal discussion between SCATS (Aleks Terauds) and CCAMLR (Keith Reid) were initiated in the margins of the ATCM in Sofia. These discussions will continue to generate ideas and strategies for improving the information flow between SCAR and CCAMLR.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: SCATS continues to be a dynamic and productive Standing Committee and we recommend that ExCom note and approve of the actions to date and support future initiatives.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: SCATS will co-ordinate the responses required following the ATCM/CEP in Sofia and continue to develop and provide advice on behalf of SCAR in preparation for next CEP/ATCM meeting in Chile. SCATS will continue to provide editorial support and engage with the Antarctic Environments Portal.

Partners: SCATS has a strong track record of engagement with groups both within and external to SCAR and this engagement will be developed and increased over the next 18 months, with a particular focus on improving information flow between SCAR and CCAMLR.

Budget Implications: US\$20 000 per year funding for SCATS (+ support for ATCM/CEP travel)

Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System - Report to ExCom, August 2015

Introduction

The Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SCATS) is the body tasked with developing SCAR's scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and its Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS), and the Advisory Committee to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

In 2014-15, SCATS Chief Officer Steven Chown stepped down after eight years in the role. Dr. Aleks Terauds was elected to this position at the 33rd SCAR Delegates meeting in Auckland, September 2014. Other SCATS members to rotate off over this time period included Chuck Kennicutt and Sergio Marensi. New members over this time include Daniella Liggett, Akinori Takahashi, and Yan Ropert-Coudert. SCATS still requires a representative of the Standing Scientific Group on Physical Sciences and is in discussion with the Chief Officer of SSG-PS on this front.

Important Issues or Factors

The Monaco Assessment

In 2010, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Its vision: “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.” To realise this vision 20 targets within five strategic goals were agreed to. They form the basis of a global agreement to address biodiversity loss. In consequence, much of the world's biodiversity is the subject of global action, or at the least intended action, for its conservation.

By contrast, the Antarctic region is largely an international space governed predominantly through the Antarctic Treaty System. Environmental matters are the main concern of its Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). While environmental conservation is a key concern within the Antarctic Treaty System, how strategic initiatives in the region align with those identified through the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has not been ascertained.

To this end, a meeting of biodiversity and Antarctic experts, entitled ‘*Antarctica and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: The Monaco Assessment*’, was convened for three days in Monaco, with the support of the Monaco government, the Centre Scientifique de Monaco, SCAR, and Monash University. SCAR President Jeronimo Lopez-Martinez and SCATS CO Aleks Terauds represented SCAR at this workshop.

The central purpose of the meeting was to examine the extent to which conservation of the biodiversity of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean is realizing the set of ambitions agreed for the world as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The meeting also aimed to provide guidance for action that can effectively help deliver further conservation successes for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. An additional goal was to identify key areas for work and indicators to help guide that work.

One of its first outcomes is a statement by the participants, on Antarctic and Southern Ocean conservation in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, based on an expert elicitation process, and entitled *The Monaco Assessment*. It is provided on the SCAR website at <http://www.scar.org/monaco-assessment>. Further outcomes and products of *Antarctica and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: The Monaco Assessment* will be made available over the next several months.

The Antarctic Environments Portal

Over the last 12 months the Antarctic Environments Portal has developed on a number of fronts, and SCAR has provided input into many of these aspects, including governance, editorial processes, the communication strategy, content development, website structure and appearance and general project planning. SCATS CO Aleks Terauds attended the Steering Group Meeting in November (remotely) and also attended a meeting for content development around climate change in Cambridge, March 2015. SCAR will have an ongoing presence on the Portal Editorial Board with SCATS CO and two other scientific representatives that SCAR nominates. On this basis, Aleks Terauds was appointed to the Portal Editorial Board in early 2015 and, on SCARS recommendation, so were Akinori Takahashi (Member of SCATS and on the Steering Committee of AnT-ERA) and Carlota Escutia (Chief Officer of the SCAR SRP PAIS). Aleks Terauds and Carlota Escutia attended the first Editorial Meeting in March 2015.

In 2015, SCATS, in conjunction with the Portal Editor David Walton, have coordinated the review of six Information Summaries for the Portal, and the Editorial processes seem to be working effectively. The Portal recently received funding from the Tinker Foundation to continue its operation for the next three years, and SCAR will remain an active partner in this initiative.

XXXVIII ATCM and CEP XVIII, Sofia, Bulgaria 1-10 June 2015

SCAR submitted two Working Paper (WPs), six Information Papers (IPs) and three Background Papers (BPs) to CEP XVIII, some of which were also presented to the ATCM. Two of these papers were submitted jointly with Treaty Parties. The SCAR Lecture, given by Richard Bellerby was on "Southern Ocean Acidification". The lecture was very well attended and received very positive comments. Leading up to the ATCM, SCAR also provided input to intersessional groups such as the contact group on climate change. SCAR scientists also provided feedback into the drafting of guidelines for activities in terrestrial geothermal areas. SCAR maintained a substantial involvement in the Antarctic Environments Portal, through editorial oversight and assistance with content development.

In addition to agreeing to play an active role in the Antarctic Environments Portal, SCAR also agreed to review the draft code of conduct for activities in geothermal areas and submit a final version to CEP XIX (2016) for consideration. SCAR also agreed to assist with the review of the Non-native Species Manual. SCAR (through the Action Group on Geological Heritage and Geoconservation) will consider matters relating to the scientific understanding of fossils as part of the groups broader work and SCAR will provide advice to CEP XXI (2018). SCAR has again been invited to give a lecture on a scientific matter of interest for the XXXIX ATCM and CEP XIX (2016). The full report of the SCAR delegation to the 2015 ATCM and CEP is provided in WP 24.

SCAR- CCAMLR Engagement

Informal discussion between SCATS (Aleks Terauds) and CCAMLR (Keith Reid) were initiated in the margins of the ATCM in Sofia. These discussions will continue to generate ideas and strategies for improving the information flow between SCAR and CCAMLR

Future Initiatives

Cross Programme workshop on interactions between biological and climate processes

In September 2015, SCATS will send a representative to the SCAR Cross Programme Workshop to be held in Barcelona. The aims of this workshop are to gather information for the development of interdisciplinary projects in Antarctic and Southern Ocean research. Specifically, the meeting hopes to identify: (1) demands in environmental information from existing and planned biological projects, (2) environmental information, that non-biological working groups can provide, (3) information that biologist can provide, e.g., CO₂ uptake and O₂ production, for physically driven climate research projects, (4) compile environmental data.

Next steps and outputs from the Monaco assessment meeting.

SCAR will maintain an active involvement in the production of a high-profile article detailing the findings of the Workshop. SCAR will also stay involved in the dissemination of these findings after the findings have been published, including the possible preparation of a Working Paper to be submitted 2016 CEP in Chile.

Code of Conduct for Activities in Geothermal Areas

At CEP XVIII New Zealand introduced WP 35 *Code of Conduct for Activities within Terrestrial Geothermal Environments in Antarctica*, and referred to IP 24 *Code of Conduct for Activities within Terrestrial Geothermal Environments in Antarctica*, both of which were jointly prepared with Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The proponents recommended that the Committee: provide any comments on the draft of the code of conduct; invite SCAR in consultation with COMNAP to review the draft code of conduct with a view to endorsing it as a SCAR code of conduct; and invite SCAR to re-submit a final version of the code of conduct for consideration at CEP XIX.

SCAR agreed to review the draft code of conduct for activities in geothermal areas and submit a final version to CEP XIX (2016) for consideration. The review will be carried out in conjunction with COMNAP and SSG-GS.

Antarctic Environments Portal

SCAR is committed to assisting that the Antarctic Environments Portal maintain its objective of providing objective and independent policy-ready science to the CEP Members and other interested parties. To this end SCATS CO will continue to liaise with Editor David Walton, and the rest of the Editorial Board, to ensure that the editorial processes are maintained at the highest standards. SCATS will also continue to assist with the review process and content development.

XXXIX ATCM and CEP XIX

SCAR will contribute to the 2016 ATCM and CEP meetings, as mentioned above and in the Report of the 2015 ATCM and CEP meetings (see WP 24)